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IMMEDIATE

FRP:

STAFF

OUTGOING

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~~BRIEF NOFORN NOCONTRACT~~
BRIEF 100518Z ~~100518Z DEC 85~~
TO: ~~IMMEDIATE~~ ROUTINE MEA BRIEF.
(NOFORN IN SLENTS)

WN111EL.

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA BRIEF
1985.

FOR 10 DECEMBER

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS

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1. AFGHANISTAN: LEADERSHIP CHANGES
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1. AFGHANISTAN: LEADERSHIP CHANGES

//THE SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO PORTRAY RECENT CHANGES IN THE

Approved for Release
Date JUN 1999

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AFGHAN RULING PARTY AS INITIATIVES TO REVITALIZE IT AND TO CONCILIA
TE OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME.// 53

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//THE MAIN CHANGE APPEARS TO BE THE PROMOTION OF FORMER INTELLIGENCE CHIEF NAJIBULLAH TO A PROMINENT POSITION IN THE PARTY AS CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

MESSAGE

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1 SOVIET OFFICIALS ARE GOING OUT OF THEIR WAY TO underscore PRESIDENT BABRAK KARMA
L'S RECENT HINTS THAT HE PLANS TO BROADEN THE REGIME TO MAKE IT MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE POPULATION. BABRAK'S RECENT SPEECH WAS MADE AT SOVIET INITIATIVE: THE SOVIETS ARE PUSHING THE IDEA THAT THE REGIME IS MAKING CONCILIATORY GESTURES TOWARDS THE RESISTANCE.

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//THE SOVIET AND AFGHAN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO GIVE AN IMPRESSION OF FLEXIBILITY ARE PROBABLY AIMED PRIMARILY AT IMPROVING THE ATMOSPHERE BEFORE THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS IN GENEVA LATER THIS MONTH. KABUL HAS RECENTLY SENT SEVERAL PARTY DELEGATIONS ABROAD TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES AND TO COUNTER PUBLICITY GENERATED BY AFGHAN RESISTANCE DELEGATIONS IN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST.// b3

MESSAGE

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//NAJIBULLAH'S RECENT PROMOTION STRENGTHENS HIS POSITION AS A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO BABRAK. THE SOVIETS MAY BE WAITING TO SEE HOW WELL NAJIBULLAH ATTACKS THE INEFFICIENCY AND DISLOYALTY IN THE AFGHAN CIVIL SERVICE AND MILITARY FORCES BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO MOVE HIM UP TO SUCCEED BABRAK.//

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//DESPISE MOSCOW'S EFFORTS TO APPEAR FLEXIBLE, GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV, MAKING HIS FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT BEFORE THE SUPREME SOVIET LAST MONTH, DEFENDED THE USSR'S AFGHAN POLICY IN PRECISELY THE SAME WAY AS HIS PREDECESSORS.// b3

MESSAGE

2. IRAN-IRAQ: ISLAMIC PEACE COMMITTEE

//GAMBIAN PRESIDENT JAWARA, CHAIRMAN OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE'S COMMITTEE ON THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR, BEGINS A NEW MEDIATION EFFORT TODAY, DESPITE CONTINUED IRANIAN INFLEXIBILITY ON THE MAIN ISSUES IN THE CONFLICT. JAWARA EXPECTS TO BE JOINED IN JIDDAH BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE--MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER MAHATHIR, TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER HALEFOGLU, AND POSSIBLY PAKISTANI PRESIDENT

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ZIA--BEFORE PROCEEDING TO BAGHDAD AND TEHRAN.

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3. SOUTH ASIA: MODEST BEGINNING FOR REGIONAL GROUP

//THE FIRST SUMMIT OF THE SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION LAST WEEKEND IN BANGLADESH CREATED FAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR THE PARTICIPANTS BUT PRODUCED FEW RESULTS, EVEN IN THE BILATERAL TALKS. [REDACTED] THE HEADS OF STATE OF PAKISTAN, INDIA, BANGLADESH, SRI LANKA, NEPAL, BHUTAN, AND THE MALDIVES DECIDED TO FORM NEW COMMITTEES TO EXPLORE COOPERATION ON COMBATING TERRORISM AND DRUG ABUSE, AND TO HOLD THEIR SECOND ANNUAL SUMMIT IN NEW DELHI NEXT NOVEMBER. THE SUMMIT DECLARATION CALLED FOR A NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY AND FOR INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING ECONOMIES. NO DECISIONS WERE REACHED ON WHETHER TO CREATE A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OR WHERE TO LOCATE A PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS. MANY STATES, INCLUDING THE US AND CHINA, [REDACTED] SENT CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES, BUT MOSCOW DID NOT.// 63

[REDACTED] //PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER COOPERATION WILL BE PRIMARILY DETERMINED BY INDIAN PRIME MINISTER GANDHI'S ATTITUDE AND HIS USE OF INDIA'S DISPROPORTIONATE POWER AND SHARE OF RESOURCES. SO FAR, HE HAS USED THE ORGANIZATION TO REASSURE THE SMALLER STATES OF INDIAN GOOD WILL, BUT PREFERENCES TO DISCUSS DIFFICULT ISSUES IN BILATERAL FORUMS.// [REDACTED]

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4. IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

--//IRAQ ADMITS LOSING AIRCRAFT DURING LARGE RAID ON IRANIAN POSITIONS SUNDAY . . . ALSO BOMBED KHARK ISLAND SATURDAY--50TH TIME SINCE 15 AUGUST--SLIGHTLY DAMAGING KHARK-SIRRI SHUTTLE TANKER . . .

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PRESSURE ON IRAN'S OIL OPERATIONS HAVING LITTLE EFFECT.// 63

--//DELEGATION OF LEBANESE AMAL AND HIZBALLAH IN IRAN
TEHRAN PROPOSED VISIT TO END FEUD BETWEEN THE TWO RIVAL SHIA
ORGANIZATIONS . . . SUCCESS UNLIKELY.// 63

--//KURDISH REBELS STILL KIDNAPING SOVIETS, OTHER EAST
EUROPEANS WORKING IN NORTHERN IRAQ . . . RECENTLY RELEASED TWO
SOVIETS CAPTURED A MONTH AGO . . . YUGOSLAV WORKER 61,63
RETURNING FROM AREA IMPRESSED BY KURDISH DETERMINATION,
ORGANIZATION.// 63

AFRICA

--//AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMBING
OF SOUTH AFRICAN POST OFFICE IN DURBAN ON SUNDAY INJURING EIGHT
LATEST IN SPATE OF BOMBINGS TO MARK COMING ANNIVERSARY OF
FOUNDING OF ANC MILITARY WING.// 63

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